

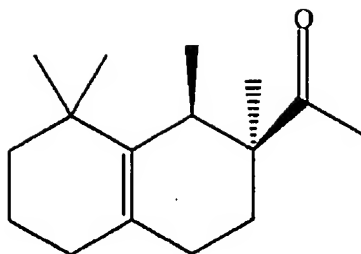
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In the Claims:

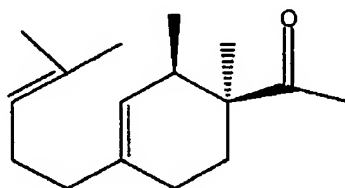
- 1.(previously presented) A process for the preparation of methylaluminium dichloride comprising the steps of:
- (i) reacting, by heating a material of the formula
$$R_3Al_2X_3,$$
where R is C₁-C₄ alkyl and X is selected from bromine and iodine with an aluminium-containing material selected from metallic aluminium and a mixture of metallic aluminium and aluminium trichloride in an atmosphere of methyl chloride, with the proviso that when R is methyl and X is iodine, the aluminium-containing material is a mixture of aluminium and aluminium trichloride; and
 - (ii) when the aluminium-containing material is metallic aluminium, adding aluminium trichloride to this reaction mixture and heating, to give a crude reaction product; and
 - (iii) optionally, obtaining methylaluminium dichloride from this crude reaction product.
2. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, in which the material of the formula $R_3Al_2X_3$ is selected from methylaluminium sesquiodide and ethylaluminium sesquibromide.
3. (cancelled)
- 4.(previously presented) A process according to claim 1 , in which the metallic aluminium is particulate metallic aluminium.
- 5.(previously presented) A process for preparing a compound of the Formula I

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I

comprising the addition of a compound of Formula II

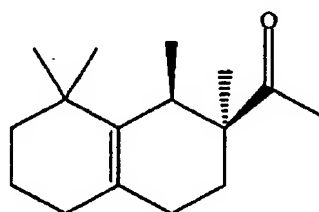


II

to the crude reaction product of a reaction according to Claim 1.

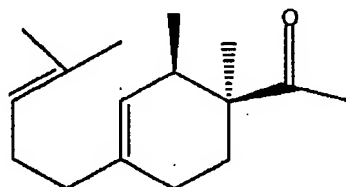
6. (currently amended)
Formula I

A process for the preparation of a compound of



I

by cyclisation of a compound of Formula II

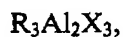


II

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of a reaction mixture according to the steps of:

- (i) reacting by heating a material of the formula



where R is C₁-C₄ alkyl and X is selected from bromine and iodine with an aluminium-containing material selected from metallic aluminium and a mixture of metallic aluminium and aluminium trichloride in an atmosphere of methyl chloride, with the proviso that when R is methyl and X is iodine, the aluminium-containing material is a mixture of aluminium and aluminium trichloride; and

- (ii) when the aluminium-containing material is metallic aluminium, adding aluminium trichloride to this reaction mixture and heating; and
(iii) adding to the mixture a compound of Formula (II) and heating to effect cyclisation of the compound of Formula (II).

7.(new) The process according to claim 6 wherein the mixture containing the compound of Formula (II) are heated to 60° - 70°C.

8.(new) The process according to claim 6 wherein the mixture containing the compound of Formula (II) are heated for about 4 hours.